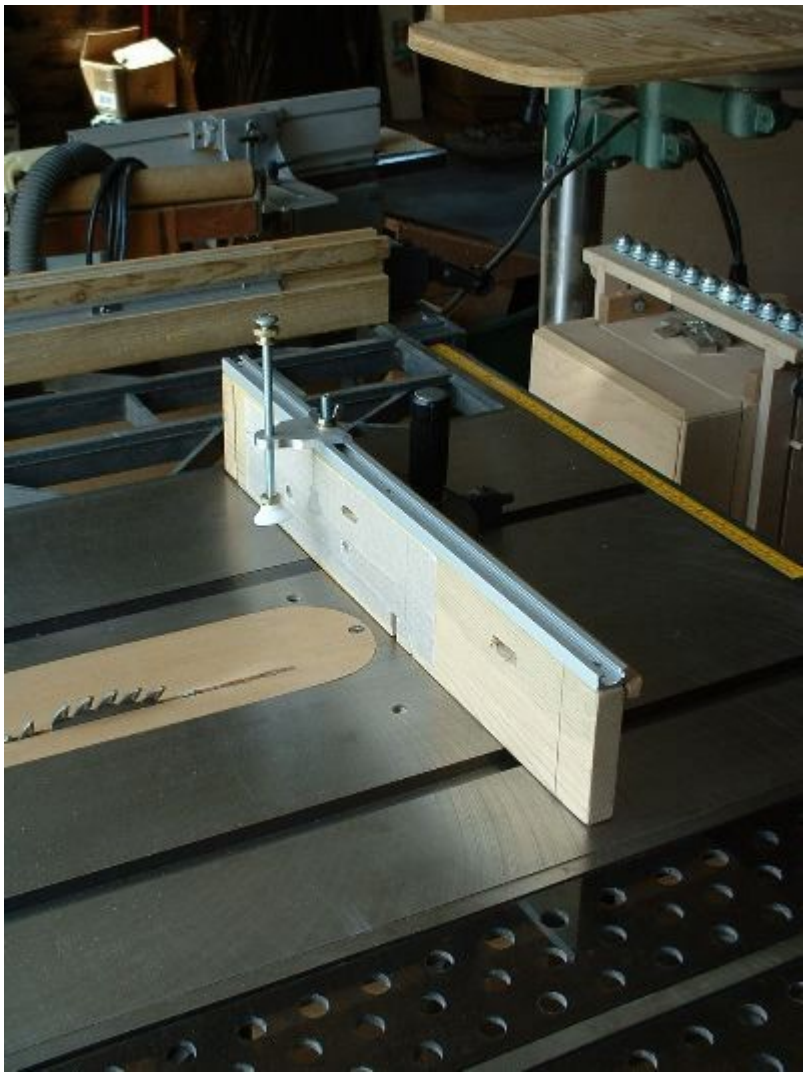
Miter Gauge Upgrade

by Barb Siddiqui

I upgraded my standard tablesaw miter gauge recently by buying a $20 'Track Clamp' from one of our Wood Central sponsors, Brad Witt at Woodhaven. These are sold as accessories to a whole slot-track system they sell for miter gauges and fences, but when I found it to be assembled of 1/4-20 hardware, I knew I could alter it to fit my needs. It came with a short carriage bolt that I switched out for a 1/4-20 flat head, so it would ride in a regular T-track, and I also had to use a 5" long bolt on the swivel foot, as the one provided was shorter than my fence height would work with, to clamp down on a workpiece. The leftover parts will be useful elsewhere.



Behind the T-track attached to the top of my regular miter gauge fence, I glued on a 19" stiffener of 1/2"x1/2" plywood, just below the level of the T-track. This provided a place to clamp on an extender bar over 26" long, with a 3"x1"x1" block glued to

the end to use as a stop for multiple cuts. I originally glued the stop block to the oak strip alone, but had a little deflection in the block so added a second glued support to stiffen and secure it at variable distance from the original gauge. When the miter gauge is used in the left hand slot (pictures are in the right hand miter slot just to illustrate and get it all in the photo) this extension block allows up to 37" cutting distance from the blade for convenience in repeat cuts.

The Woodhaven 'Track Clamp' is only for light pressure clamping, but it has worked nicely for keeping a long board in line and to prevent shifting of the workpiece when pushing it forward. I'm happy with the product, and happy with the upgrade!